



GTMO Keeps Eyes on the Weather

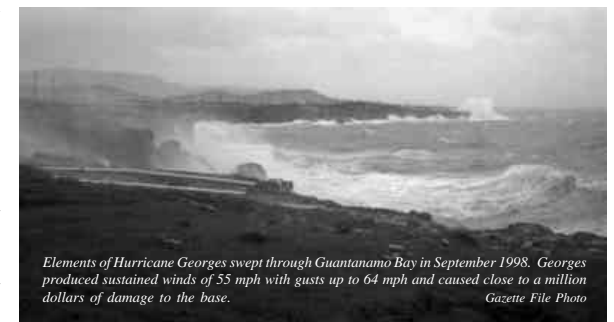
GUANTANAMO BAY—Hurricanes, by definition, are the final and most dangerous stage of cyclonic storms. They possess wind speeds of greater than 64 knots (74 mph) and are accompanied by severe and damaging weather.

The warm waters of the Caribbean, which surround Cuba, are often conducive to hurricanes. This is especially true during the summer and fall months.

June 1 was the start of hurricane season and it lasts until Nov. 30. Guantanamo Bay remains in a state of increased preparedness during this time.

One of the problems with tropical cyclones and their movement is that they are extremely unpredictable and remain very difficult to forecast. Winds approaching 90 knots (101 mph) have been reported in the past and the area covered could be over a radius of 300 miles.

As the base population is in a continuous process of turnover, an ongoing education program is required to maintain a high state of readiness. The yearly hurricane exercise is an example of this effort. However, many people check on board between exercises, while others simply fail to remember what



Elements of Hurricane Georges swept through Guantanamo Bay in September 1998. Georges produced sustained winds of 55 mph with gusts up to 64 mph and caused close to a million dollars of damage to the base.
Gazette File Photo

they are expected to do.

Because of the potential threat to Guantanamo Bay by hurricanes, it is imperative that all base residents be familiar with the warning conditions and what to do if the base is threatened.

COMNAVBASEGTMOINST 3440.4 should be reviewed by all base residents in order to become familiar with hurricane conditions of readiness. Copies of this

instruction are now provided as you move into family housing. This special edition of the *Gazette* briefly explains hurricane conditions. Guantanamo Bay is in Hurricane Condition IVA from June 1 to November 30, unless a hurricane threatens the base, causing an upgrading of the hurricane preparedness condition.

In 1998, Hurricane Georges passed over

(See 'Season' on page two)

Hurricane Conditions

GUANTANAMO BAY—The following are the hurricane conditions established for Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. When condition I, II or III are set, the information will be broadcast on radio station FM 103.1, the emergency broadcast station (EBS).

Hurricane Condition V (Dec. 1 through May 31)

Normal routine.

Hurricane Condition IVA

(June 1 through Nov. 30, set by COMNAVBASE Guantanamo Bay)

Normal readiness during hurricane season.

Hurricane Condition IV

Set when hurricane force winds are possible within 72 hours.

Hurricane Condition III

Set when a hurricane is within 48 hours of the base. Check nonperishable food supplies, fill water containers and secure all loose objects.

Hurricane Condition II

Set when a hurricane moves within 24 hours of the base. All emergency personnel report for duty and all base leave and liberty is cancelled.

All base personnel should stay tuned to the EBS for further instructions. Outdoor furniture, trash cans and other moveable objects should be moved inside or securely tied. Water cans should be cleaned in preparation for filling with water.

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A Look Inside

First aid information

Hurricane-resistant housing list

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Hurricane basket information

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Where to get information during the storm

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Tracking map

— pages 4 & 5 —



Emergency Phone Numbers

Base police
911/4105
o
Fire department
911/4222
o
Emergency room
911/7-2690/3200
o
Hospital information desk
72360
o
Base operator
914
o
Housing trouble desk
5262
o
Naval Station Quarterdeck
4453

Special Edition

Guantanamo Bay

GAZETTE

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Season

(continued from page 1)

GTMO and the base sustained some high winds and damage. The base was fortunate not to have any injuries or casualties.

Being prepared means it's a good idea to have some safety rules to follow. Here are just a few.

Prior to a tropical storm/hurricane threat

- Know the location of your shelter if your housing is not hurricane-resistant.
- Know the safe haven for your boat.
- Know the hurricane conditions of readiness.

- Maintain your hurricane basket.
- Maintain several hurricane lamps with sufficient fuel or candles.

- Keep emergency cooking material available (Coleman stove/sterno/gas and grills).
- Provide means to store fresh water (in plastic containers, water cans or jars).

When a tropical storm/hurricane threatens

- Trim dead wood from trees.
- Pickup and store loose objects in your yard, patio or working area.
- Check your medicines and first aid supplies.
- Check your stock of nonperishable foods and canned goods.
- Store water in a clean bathtub, sink and other containers.
- Fuel your car.
- Check your inventory of batteries for radio,

flashlights, emergency lamps and emergency cooking material.

- Stay tuned to the EBS and TV channels 2, 4 or 6 for emergency broadcasts, official bulletins and announcements.

• If storms do come, move furniture to the center of the room or inside wall away from windows.

During a tropical storm/hurricane

- Do not go outside.
- Stay in your shelter until "all clear" is announced/signaled.
- Remain calm.
- When using lanterns, lamps, candles, etc. take precautions to prevent fires.

After the tropical storm/hurricane

- Use emergency lighting sparingly, it may take a while to restore base utilities.
- Do not go near downed power lines.
- Do not go near disaster areas.
- Conserve water. If unsure about its purity, boil it for five minutes before using.
- Avoid frequent opening of the refrigerator and/or freezer to help keep the food cold.
- Do not eat cooked food that has not been refrigerated or canned goods that have been left open for a long time.
- Do not drive a vehicle, except in emergencies. The road may be washed-out, covered with loose debris or otherwise impassable.
- Remember your safety rules, listen closely to the television and radio, and reread this special edition. It could be the most important thing you do as you prepare for hurricane season.

First Aid: Are You Prepared For Any Emergency

GUANTANAMO BAY — Hurricane preparedness means having a first aid kit and refreshing your emergency medical skills.

During a hurricane, people are injured by flying debris. After the storm, shattered glass, broken tree limbs and fallen power lines may cause further injuries.

According to U.S. Naval Hospital personnel, you can either buy or make your own first aid kit.

Keep the following numbers by your phone in case of a medical emergency: ambulance, 911; USNH emergency information, 3200. If an ambulance can't leave the hospital for weather reasons, hospital personnel at 3200 can give you advice on what to do for the emergency.

If you have to treat someone yourself, follow these guidelines:

- Look the injured person over from head to toe; check for breathing, bleeding and broken bones.

• If necessary, first restore breathing. You can learn to do this in CPR and first aid classes offered by American Red Cross-certified instructors. Call 4676 to find a

certified instructor.

- After breathing is restored, stop the bleeding. Apply direct firm pressure to the wound, with sterile gauze pads. Don't remove the gauze pads; just add new pads if the bleeding continues. Keep pressure on the wound. If the injury is on an arm or leg, elevate the limb. Tourniquets are used only as a last resort.

- Check for broken bones, or parts of the body that look deformed, for example: a dislocated shoulder. A temporary splint can be made by securing a rolled magazine or piece of wood to the affected limb with Ace wraps.

- Keep the patient warm to prevent shock.

The best way to treat an injury is to avoid getting it. Never touch downed electrical wires, even days after the storm. They may still be live. A line that you assume is dead may suddenly become live as workmen restore power. Don't go sight-seeing and stay away from windows. The high winds send glass, branches and other debris flying.

Is Your Housing Hurricane-resistant

GUANTANAMO BAY — The following information is provided to assist residents in determining whether their housing is hurricane-resistant. If you reside in nonhurricane-resistant housing, you are assigned a shelter. People in nonhurricane-resistant housing can also stay with a neighbor or friend who is in hurricane-resistant housing, but must first fill out a relocation memorandum for hurricane shelter reassignment with the Operations Department. Call 4704/4366 for more information.

Non-Hurricane Resistant Housing

Paola Point, Radio Point
Deer Point
Marina Point, Marine Site
Hibiscus Hollow

Assigned Shelter

Youth Center
BOQ Common
CBQ Common
Gold Hill Barracks

Vital Hurricane First Aid Supplies

Residents preparing for the hurricane season should add the following first aid items to their supplies:

- Prescribed medications – Ensure that personal prescriptions are up-to-date and filled. Asthmatics should consider a spare inhaler in addition to their asthma medication. Maintain enough prescription medication to last seven days, especially for heart problems, blood pressure, etc.

- Over-the-counter medications
- Eye glasses – an extra pair is good
- Electrolyte solutions
- Band-aids
- Antiseptic solutions such as alcohol, iodine or peroxide
- Rolled gauze, gauze pads and gauze sponges
- pain relievers such as Tylenol
- Scissors
- Tape
- Consider buying a basic

- first aid kit.
- Bleach for preparation of the tub for water storage and purification
- Supply of canned or powdered baby formula
- 2 or 3 Ace bandages
- adhesive tape
- bandages
- thermometer
- blanket to keep shock or hypothermia patients warm.
- Being prepared is essential to survival during a major hurricane as well as any emergency.

Protect Pets During Hurricanes

GUANTANAMO BAY — In the event of a hurricane, animals are not allowed in the base emergency shelters for public health and safety reasons. This means planning ahead is essential. The pet hurricane shelter is Granadillo Circle 87B.

Before hurricane season arrives, you should prepare a hurricane basket for your pet, too. These items include:

- pet carrier (required by regulation)
- collar (include leash for dogs)
- water for three days
- food for 3 days (about 1 - 5lb. bag)
- familiar toys and one towel or blanket
- food and water bowls (large/

- stable, not easily knocked over)
- cat litter and litter box (20lb. bag of no scooping litter)
- cat litter box
- medications

Remember these items are needed to properly care for your animals in the event of an emergency. If your house is hurricane-resistant:

- Prepare an area in your house that is away from windows, such as in a utility room or bathroom.
- Bring your pet inside. Never leave pets outside during a hurricane.
- Leave only dry foods that are relatively unpalatable to prevent overeating.
- Do not leave any vitamins or mineral supplements;

overeating them could cause salt poisoning.

- Water should be left in bathtubs or other sturdy containers to prevent spillage. If your animal is on any special medication, consult the veterinarian for suggestions.

• Separate your pets; animals who are usually friendly may become scared and fight each other.

- Provide an area off the floor in case of flooding.

When Hurricane Condition I is announced, pet owners living in nonhurricane-resistant housing should drop off their pet at the pet shelter where to be cared for by the vet clinic staff, but reservations are required. Contact SPC Albrecht at 2212 or

Protect Your Home

There are ways to prevent damage to your home during a hurricane. Throughout the hurricane season, ensure all yards and work areas are free from loose debris, which could possibly become missile hazards during high winds.

Flashlights, hurricane lamps, candles and other sources of emergency lighting should be procured in case of power failure.

In the event Hurricane Condition I is set, move furniture away from doors and windows and store small items under a bed or in closets.

All lamps, fans and other small appliances should be unplugged, as well as large appliances, such as stoves, washers and dryers.

The only exception to this are refrigerators and freezers. These should be set at the coldest setting to help avoid food spoilage in the event of a power outage.

Make a careful inspection before appliances are reconnected or turned back on to ensure they're not wet or still in contact with water.

Following this simple procedure could prevent electrocution.

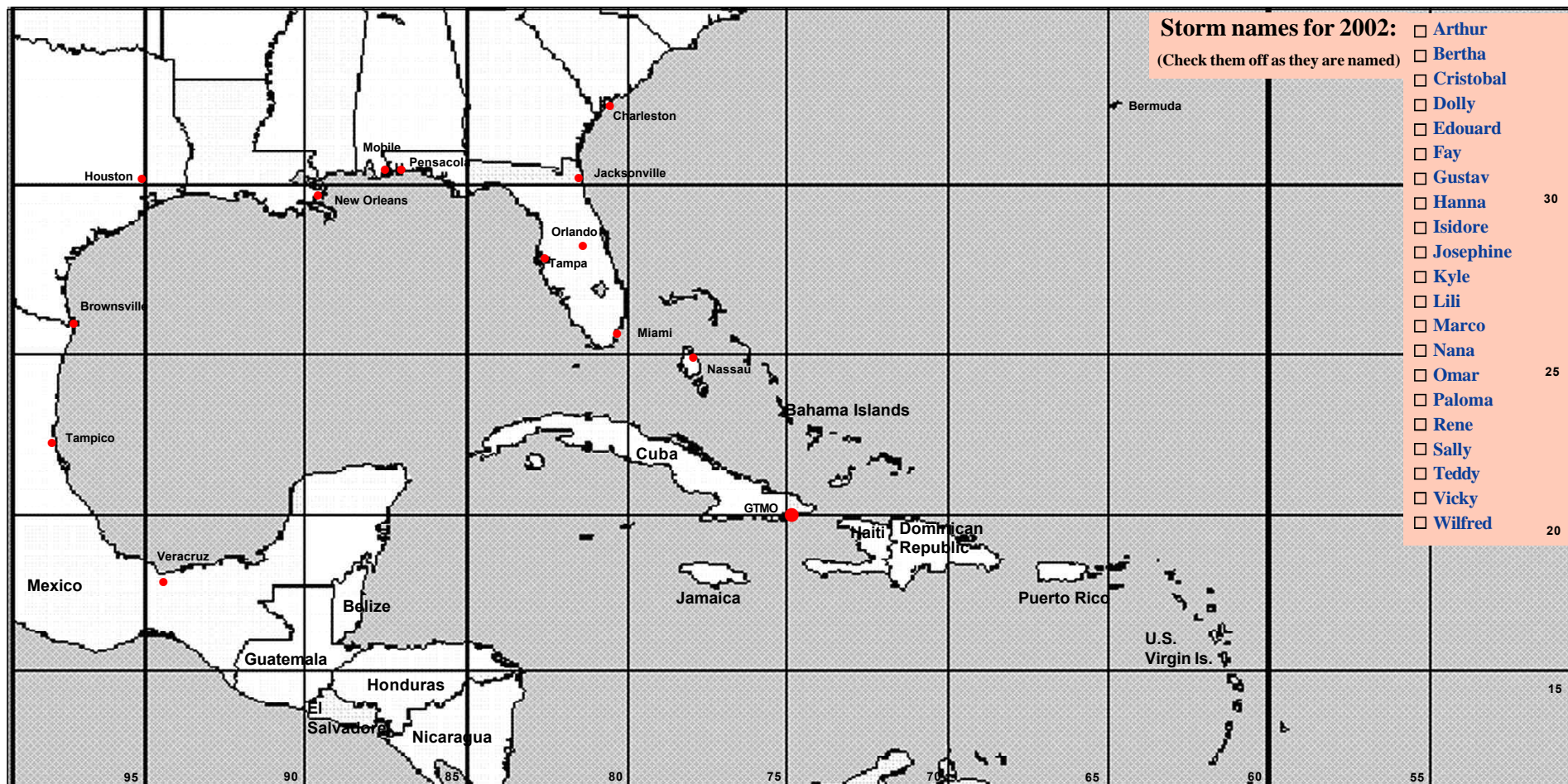
Pictures and paintings should be removed and stored in a safe place to prevent water damage.

2101 to make your reservations.

The pet shelter is located in Granadillo Circle 87B and pet owners have six hours to drop off their pets after Hurricane Condition I is announced. No exceptions.

The animal must be in a carrier (one pet per carrier), clearly labeled with the pet's name, owner's name and phone number. All pets must have items listed in the hurricane basket. The vet clinic does not provide those items. Once the hurricane passes and Hurricane Condition I is announced, pet owners have 12 hours to pick up their pets.

For more information, call the vet clinic at 2101 or 2212.



Plot your own tracking map - Advisories are numbered consecutively for each storm and describe the present and forecasted position and intensity of the storm. Hurricane advisories are issued at six-hour intervals, at midnight, 6 a.m., noon and 6 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.

Bulletins provide additional information. Each

message gives the name, eye position, intensity and forecast movement of the hurricane.

Hurricane eye positions are given by latitude and longitude, to the nearest one-tenth of one degree.

Eye positions may also be given as a statute mile compass direction from a specified point.

When you receive hurricane advisories, note

the advisory number, eye position, intensity and forecast direction of movement. Then, make the eye position on the tracking chart.

Because hurricanes change direction very quickly, you should

concentrate more on where the storm will go, rather than where it has been.

Tropical cyclones are not given names until they reach tropical storm stage. They are closed isobars, have rotary

circulation and winds greater than 34 knots (39 mph).

Hurricanes typically form off the coast of Western Africa, the Western Caribbean or in the Gulf of Mexico and they normally track west or north.

Definitions And Terms To Weather The Storm

GUANTANAMO BAY - The primary mission of Naval Atlantic Meteorology and Oceanography Detachment (NLMOD) is to provide weather and oceanography information to the Department of Defense and the public.

NLMOD's area of responsibility covers Guantanamo Bay and extends out to Jamaica and Haiti.

During the hurricane season, NLMOD also pays particular attention to the Eastern Atlantic and the Caribbean Sea for signs of tropical development.

The NLMOD forecasters are continuously looking for organization of clouds that begin to exhibit rotation, continuously monitor low-level atmospheric conditions and upper-level conditions for areas that are conducive for tropical cyclone formation.

Even though tropical storms and hurricanes form in the Atlantic and Caribbean, the severe weather must overcome many obstacles to strike Guantanamo Bay.

There are mountains that surround the base and even higher mountains in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Hurricanes generally follow a west-northwest track and when they hit the mountains, it takes away a lot of the storm's punch.

The last storm with any "punch" to strike Guantanamo was

hurricane Georges in 1998. The storm raged through the base with 55 mph winds and gusts up to 64 mph.

The base sustained minimal damage but other areas in the Caribbean were severely damaged.

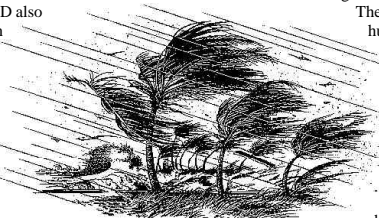
Any hurricane that comes within 180 miles is considered a storm that could cause damage to the base.

The most dangerous characteristic of a hurricane is the storm surge. A storm surge can raise tide levels well above normal. A surge of more than eight feet would be very serious in Guantanamo Bay. Fortunately, there is a drop-off in water depth just outside the bay, which helps to cut down the effects of a storm surge.

The storm surge, however, could still generate large swells in the bay and subsequent shoreline damage and erosion.

As a tropical storm or hurricane approaches NLMOD will advise the Naval Base Commander of the current location, forecasted track and a recommended condition of readiness. The base commander will then set the condition of readiness as appropriate.

During this hurricane season stay tuned to the Channel 6 Weather channel where NLMOD will keep all base personnel informed about current hurricane conditions of readiness and Hurricane tracking information.



Assemble Your Hurricane Basket

GUANTANAMOBAY—For those of you who aren't sure what to put in your hurricane basket, here is a good list to go by. Everyone should have a hurricane basket ready at all times.

It is a good idea to stock these items and keep them on hand for emergencies. In the event of an actual hurricane, a hurricane basket should already be assembled.

The basket should include:

- Enough canned, or other ready-to-eat food for 24 to 48 hours for you and your family, including items such as a can opener, disposable plates, cups, forks, knives, spoons, paper towels, napkins, bottled water, plastic drop cloth, and other items such as these.
- Minimum clothing, soap, toilet articles, and a towel for each member of the family.
- One blanket for each family member.
- Disposable diapers, baby formula and nursing supplies for infants.
- Batteries, flashlights, water containers, first-aid kits, safety matches, bandages, candles, portable battery-powered radio, wind-up alarm clock and cooler.

- Nonessential, but desirable items may include small toys, reading material, playing cards, oil lamps/lamp oil, etc.

- A seven-day supply of all medications taken for chronic or acute medical conditions such as asthma, high blood pressure or heart problems.

- Moist towelettes
- Blankets
- First aid kits
- Safety matches
- Bandages
- Books, cards, nonelectric games
- Bag/basket large enough to carry everything

Do not take the following items to the hurricane shelter:

- Pets
- Alcoholic beverages
- Cooking utensils and equipment
- Valuables
- Electric games or devices
- Large toys
- Nonessential personal belongings

Conditions

(Continued from page 1)

Hurricane Condition I and IA

Set when the hurricane is within 12 hours of the base. The base siren will sound a three-minute series of wails to indicate "take cover." At this time, the ferry is secured and all privately-owned vehicle traffic is prohibited. Also, all nonessential personnel should proceed to hurricane shelters or hurricane-resistant housing. All preparations for Hurricane Condition II should be complete by this time.

When "all clear" is passed, all military and civilian employees should leave their shelters and report to work centers for muster and further instructions. All other base personnel are allowed to return to their residences.

FM 103.1 - Update Central

Naval Media Center (NMC) Detachment's FM 103.1 is Guantanamo Bay's primary emergency broadcast station or EBS. The detachment and its radio transmitters have emergency auxiliary power which allow uninterrupted broadcast capability in the event of storm-related power outages.

"We also provide valuable information on our other radio frequencies," said JOC Diane Jacobs, detachment officer-in-charge. "But we want people to know that FM 103.1 is the first station you should turn to in case of a weather emergency."

Jacobs said radio and television broadcasts are effective ways to communicate

with large groups of people during weather emergencies because of both the speed and efficiency of transmissions.

"NLMOD (Naval Atlantic Meteorology and Oceanography Detachment) provides us with weather reports and hurricane conditions set by the base commander and we can turn around and pass it on to the community within seconds, if necessary."

NMC provides general information about hurricane preparedness throughout hurricane season in the form of radio commercials and announcements on the Community Bulletin Board viewed on cable Channel four.

This includes hurricane shelter locations, items that should be in a hurricane basket and other important information.

In a severe storm, the radio station stays on the air as long as possible, according to Jacobs. "We pass on as much information to the community as we can, as required by the base commander," she said, "so make sure you have a portable radio and plenty of batteries."

A portable radio and batteries should be kept handy throughout the year, not just during hurricane season. "Scientists say hurricanes normally occur during certain months of the year but that doesn't necessarily mean they will," said Jacobs. "Emergency

situations can happen anytime, weather-related or otherwise. That's why it's important to be ready at all times."

During a hurricane, the radio becomes more than a source of information. Listeners can tune in and find out exactly where the hurricane is, what it's doing - they can even track it themselves using the Gazette's hurricane tracking chart.

"The radio keeps them informed as to what's going on around them. That, combined with the music and entertainment provided by the radio station, will hopefully lessen any feelings of fear they may have."

Should NMC lose its primary FM signal, emergency information will be broadcast on AM 1340.

Hurricanes - giant, spiral whirlwinds

Hurricanes are tropical cyclones in which winds reach speeds of 74 mph or more, and blow in a large spiral around a relatively calm center—the eye of the hurricane. Every year, these violent storms bring destruction to coastlines and islands in their erratic path.

Tropical cyclones of the same type are called typhoons in the North Pacific, baguios in the Philippines, and cyclones in the Indian Ocean.

Circulation is counterclockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.

Stated very simply, hurricanes are giant whirlwinds in which air moves in a large, tightening spiral around a center of extreme low pressure, reaching maximum velocity in a circular band extending outward 20 or 30 miles from the rim of the eye.

This circulation is counterclockwise in the Northern Hemisphere, and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere. Near the eye, hurricane winds may gust to more than 200 mph, and the entire storm dominates the ocean surface and lower atmosphere over tens of thousands of square miles.

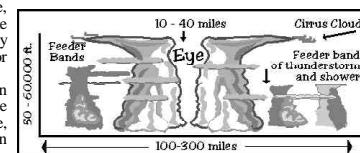
The eye, like the spiral structure of the storm, is unique to hurricanes. Here, winds are light and skies are clear or partly cloudy. But this calm is deceptive, bordered as it is by hurricane-force winds and torrential rains. Many people have been killed or injured when the calm eye lured them out of shelter, only to be caught in the hurricane winds at the far side of the eye, where the winds blow from a direction opposite to that in the leading half of the storm.

Hurricane winds do the most damage, but drowning is the greatest cause of hurricane deaths. As the storm approaches and moves across the coastline, it brings huge waves,

raising tides some 15 feet or more above normal. The rise may come rapidly, and produce flash floods in coastal lowlands, or may come in the form of giant waves, which are mistakenly called tidal waves.

Waves and currents erode beaches and barrier islands, undermine waterfront structures, and wash out highway and railroad beds. The torrential rains produce sudden flooding, as the storm moves inland and its wind diminishes. Floods constitute the hurricane's greatest threat.

The hurricanes that strike the eastern United States are born in the tropical and sub-tropical



September, the principal areas of origin shift back to the western Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico.

On the average, six Atlantic hurricanes occur per year. However, there are significant deviations from this average. In 1916 and 1950, 11 hurricanes were observed, and no hurricanes were observed in 1907 and 1914. During 1893, 1950 and 1961 seasons, four hurricanes were observed in progress at the same time.

Hurricanes also form along the west coast of Mexico and Central America, but their effects are seldom felt as far north as California. These threaten shipping and aviation, however, they are watched as carefully as their Atlantic cousins.

Hurricanes begin as relatively small tropical cyclones which drift gradually to the west-northwest (in the Northern Hemisphere), imbedded in the westward blowing tradewinds of the tropics. Under certain conditions these disturbances increase in size, speed, and intensity until they become full-fledged hurricanes.

The storms move forward very slowly in the tropics, and may sometimes hover for short periods of time. The initial forward speed is usually 15 mph or less. Then, as the hurricane moves farther from the equator, its forward speed tends to increase at middle latitudes, it may exceed 60 mph.

These great storms are driven by the heat released by condensing water vapor, and by external mechanical forces. Once cut off from the warm ocean, the storm begins to die, starved for water and heat energy, and dragged apart by friction as it moves over the land.

Guantanamo Bay Base Weather Office Plays Vital Storm Preparation Role

GUANTANAMO BAY —They predict the weather. Most would say that's a piece of cake in Guantanamo Bay since the weather is very nearly the same every day. Try telling that to the aerographers who man the Naval Atlantic Meteorology and Oceanography Detachment on Leeward Point; especially during hurricane season.

It's primary mission is to keep the public and the Navy Department updated on anything to do with weather and oceanography.

Most residents frequently check the weather channel and know that Guantanamo Bay averages a balmy 90 degrees during the day and a comfortable 70 degrees at night.

Locally, the coverage area is around Guantanamo and the area covering Jamaica to the Windward Passage, but when the weather changes, as it often does this time of year, that coverage area expands from the Gulf of Mexico east to Africa.

Activity for NLMOD does increase during the hurricane season. The weather office is manned 24-hours a day by the chief petty officer-in-charge, two forecasters and two observers upon the setting of Hurricane Condition III. Before Guantanamo's weathermen begin their 24-hour test of endurance, they must first detect the storm.

If the weather watchers note a turning band of clouds and look at the time of the year, they can determine whether a system has the ability to form into a tropical storm or hurricane. They then check the low level atmospheric conditions first and then check the upper level, up to 100,000 feet and see if conditions are favorable for the formation of tropical storms.

Even though tropical storms and hurricanes may form in the Atlantic or Caribbean, the severe weather must overcome a number of obstacles to strike Guantanamo Bay.

A quick check of a topographical map of the Caribbean region shows mountains surrounding the base, and even higher mountains in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Hurricane tracks generally follow a west-northwest pattern and when they hit the mountains, the surface friction and nature barrier effects take away a lot of the storm's punch.

The last storm with any "punch" to strike Guantanamo was hurricane Georges in 1998. The storm raged through Guantanamo with 55

mph winds and gusts up to 64 mph. The base sustained over a million dollars in property damage but no injuries. Other areas in the Caribbean were severely affected.

Any hurricane that comes within 180 miles is considered a storm that could cause damage to the base due to the size of most storms and their contributing weather patterns.

The most dangerous characteristic of a hurricane is the storm surge. A storm surge can raise tide levels well above normal flooding low-lying areas and causing serious

As for being prepared, everyone needs alternate sources of power. Make sure you have batteries for flashlights and radios. Put together a hurricane basket. You might think you will never have to use it, but it's best to be prepared for something that never happens than to be unprepared when it does.

As we all prepare for hurricane season, watch your television weather reports and listen to the radio for the weather forecasters who keep us informed and prepared for hurricane season.



Gazette file photo

Guantanamo Bay escaped Georges with only property damage, a testimony to being prepared.

damage to structures and property. A surge of more than eight feet would be very serious in Guantanamo Bay. Fortunately the huge drop-off in water depth just outside the bay, severely restricts the storm surge effects here and protects the base.

The surge could still cause large swells in the bay and subsequent shoreline damage and erosion.

As a tropical storm or hurricane approaches, different storm conditions are set depending on the measured storm intensity and potential. NLMOD does not set hurricane or tropical storm conditions. We advise the Naval Base Commander of the present weather conditions, hurricane approaches and on the different conditions. He then sets local conditions as appropriate.

Experts predict more storms for 2002

GUANTANAMO BAY - This year's hurricane forecast, made by Dr. William Gray (Professor of Atmospheric Science, Colorado State University) and his colleagues, call for an "above average" season with 12 named storms, seven hurricanes and three intense hurricanes predicted.

Gray estimates the landfall probability of one or more major storms striking the Caribbean at 10 percent above the long-term average.